1946
MOUNT DIABLO
W6CX
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
WWW.MDARC.ORG

THE CARRIER

The monthly newsletter for the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club
Volume LVI • Number 11 • November 2007

November Meeting

Friday, November 16
7:30 pm
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
1035 Carol Lane
Lafayette, CA

Meeting Program
Hams Helping CERT
presented by Herbert Cole, KI6ATB

V.E. Testing
Prior to the meeting from 6-7 PM.

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SPECIAL EDITION
Pacificon 2007 Review

President's QRM

by Marty Heyman, W6MDH

Well, Jordan and I and the rest of the Pacificon team survived a record turnout. As best we can figure from early indicators, Pacificon attendance was up ten to twenty percent. HRO hinted that their sales were up by a number in that range (a very good thing, indeed) and a number of the other smaller vendors said much the same. Gordon's 1904 engraving rig was running non-stop starting Friday evening! I bought yet another name badge, two call-sign embroidered hat bands (so I can wear the good hats), and one of those great carry-on bags. No radio this year.

It was a fabulous time. The one day hamcram went great with Rich's usual very high pass rate. The antenna forum was packed. There was no standing room even in many of the forums. We had power all weekend. There was no fire drill nor was there meaningful rain. Some complained that the swap meet was not what it used to be (blame eBay) and parking was at a premium. We can only hope for the same or better next year.

MDARC ATV actually ran live from inside this year (antenna on the patio). WiFi was a challenge but should be better next year. Chris Imlay (ARRL Legal type) substituted Dan Henderson (N1ND), the guy worrying about PAVE/PAWS for himself and gave us our most popular single speaker!

Thanks to all who came and made it a fun time. Thanks to all who worked so hard all year and all weekend to put it on. The post mortem is the 17th, right after our next general meeting and then we start getting ready for '08. If you haven't been part of it, come on and help us next year!

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The Carrier is a monthly publication of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC). It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to MDARC members, and space is available. All material must be submitted to the editor by the last day of the month prior-to publication. Material is accepted on a first-in, first-out basis. Articles and other material may be submitted via Internet email to *carrier@mdarc.org* or delivered to the editor at the address listed in the club roster. Material will be accepted in plain ASCII or rich text format (RTF). Material may also be submitted as hardcopy.

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MDARC Club Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2007
Pacificon, San Ramon Marriott

President Marty Heyman, W6MDH, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. There were about 60 members and guests present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as printed in the Carrier.

Marty explained the workings of the club and membership. He explained the repeaters and the current difficulty on 440 with PavePaws radar, and the links.

Trevor Hall WA6JAU reported for the Tech Committee that the voter project was in process, with an explanation. Also, he reported on the status of the repeaters.

An explanation of public service events was given by Pete Harris KE6ZIW, with reference to the web site.

In regard to EC matters, Bob Green K6GD, announced a basic training class for RACES on the third Saturday in November.

Tom Deeble KA6SIP reported that the new membership total was 306.

Dick Brown KT6X explained some of the workings of Pacificon.

Marty and others responded to miscellaneous questions in a Q & A period.

Marty adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Dickey N6JOX, Secretary

Pacificon 2008—A Big Success!

Pete Harris, KE6ZIW

From the forums I attended or stepped in on, Chris Suter put together an excellent set of speakers. The two I attended (Amateur Radio Videos & the 2nd Pave Paws) were super. Thank you to Chris for the great forums (and for the great work you do as a firefighter!).

The Exhibit Hall was wonderful, and people continued to be lined up even in front of the more obscure vendors. The organization and planning, the layout and traffic flow, and variety of vendors was great, and the room looked elegant and inviting.

Thank you to those who sat at the Registration Desk for hours and days and dealt with the mobs who kept coming (and to Trevor and Dick Schultz for dealing with the ticket sales and money). It seemed like the main hallway never cleared. Thanks especially to Greg Estep, who comes from San Diego every year to give us his valuable assistance with equipment, reg desk, etc.

I thought the food was excellent. The banquet food my wife and I had (both beef and chicken) was great, and the service was good. Breakfast was super, good variety, warm, good tasting, and lots of it. My wife, who calls us "the hamsters", even enjoyed the whole weekend. She was actually motivated to buy a little pin-on sign that read "KE6ZIW's Wife". I'm still working on her to become a "hamster".

Dick Brown—what a job you did in coordinating this whole thing. Great leadership and coolness under fire!

We're getting consistently very positive or glowing comments about Pacificon 2007 through the website comment submission link. One guy who sells mugs with call signs wants to sign up now to be a vendor for 2008 before we sell out like this year.

Check out more photos of Pacificon by going to http://www.flickr.com/gp/11636522@N06/874007 and click "View As Slideshow." Thanks for another great event!

Are You Getting the Picture?

John Schuler, KG6CZX

If you're not watching ATV, you're just not getting the picture!

It's 9:30 on Sunday morning, raining outside, and the coffee is ready. I make my way to the shack, pull my robe up around my neck, grab the push to LOOK button, and say, "Good morning who's on board?" Look, there is Jerry in San Leandro with coffee in hand! "Nice night shirt," I say; "Who else is here this morning?" Dave in Oakley, in his brown robe and baseball hat, and Mister Dave in the Pittsburg, what on earth does he have on? (Like I say if you're not watching ATV you are just not getting the picture) Bill up in Sloughhouse is already up and dressed—he's an early riser, and Matthew is there in his Cat in the hat PJs. Oh well just another Sunday morning BATHROBE NET.

We all sit around and plan our days, talk about this and that, poke fun at everybody's morning hair. "Does mine always looks like this?" I ask, and on it goes for about 30 minutes.

What a great way to start your day! Coffee with your friends, great conversation, and no need to go out in the rain. Yep, ATV is a great mode. We are not much good at emergency communications or long distance DX, but we sure have a good time doing what we do!

Amateur Television has been around a long time on Mt Diablo but still a lot of people have no idea it's there, let alone how easy it is to receive. All you need is a cable-ready TV, a

440 vertical antenna (directional is best), and that's all. Just tune to cable channel 58 and there we are.

You never know what you might see on ATV—or who, for that matter. We have some pretty innovative people on the air. I have seen a bird's eye view out of an airplane and the same view out of a model airplane. We have guys doing mobile ATV, pedestrian ATV, and some have cameras on their towers. One guy even has a camera on the jogging path in Walnut Creek. Tonight I watched the moon go down over the bay courtesy of K3ZJJ high in the Oakland hills.

Then there is the Thursday night net. Along with the normal role call, we have had funny hat night, Hawaiian shirt night, joke night, trivia night, and the list goes on and on. We have had electronics classes, demonstrations of digital modes, cooking, wine tasting, show and tell, and yes, even pet night. The possibilities are endless. You should really check us out on Halloween—one of my favorites.

We are a pretty active group. There is activity almost every evening as well as the Wednesday rag-chew, Thursday net night and the Bathrobe net on Sunday mornings.

You too can join the fun. We are always looking for new faces and will help in any way we can to get you on the air.. If you are interested, we have transmitters for sale, free transmit antennas to all newcomers courtesy of KB6T, and we will even come to your QTH to be sure you can get into the repeater before you buy anything.

We look forward to SEEING you on the air soon!

Remember: HAMS SHOULD BE SEEN AS WELL AS HEARD!

—John…….KG6CZX

MDARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

October 1, 2007

Fuddruckers, 1940 N. Main St., Walnut Creek

The following directors were in attendance:

- Marty Heyman, W6MDH, President
- Sheldon Lawrence, KI6ATA, Vice President
- Don Anthony , N6SIA, Treasurer
- Trevor Raty, KG6MDW
- Bob Green, K6GD
- Jason Legate, W6SN
- Trevor Hall, WA6JAU

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by President Marty Heyman.

Motion for minutes approval by Bob Green, Second by Jason Legate. Minutes were approved.

Treasurers Report:

Balances:

- CD — $46286.78
- Checking — $1507.87
- Total — $47794.65
- Meeting Door Collection — $152
- Balance (-$44.00)

Membership Report

Tom, KA6SIP, reported 294 members.

Emergency Report

- Call out drill occurred "Urban Shield"
- No drill this month because of Pacificon
- November drill is basic training.
- EC Meeting Wednesday October 3.

East Bay Hills Site

Use of site has been approved. Cost will be $20 to $25 per month for utilities.

Material estimate is $700 to $800 dollars for material. Required coax for tower is 7/8 hardline. Antenna will diplex with 2 meter receiver and 6 meter repeater. Inside coax will be LMR 400. Need link antenna, plus coax.

Technical Committee

Discussion was made on time signal changes. There was an objection to the first word of the announcement be "AT" and all announcements are male.

A control operator had to shut down the 147.06 Mhz repeater after challenging someone on the use of Echolink. The control operator called Marty Heyman before taking any action and then under joint direction took action.

Pacificon

The key note speaker was changed to Dan Henderson N1ND ARRL Technical Director. Dan will discuss PAVE PAWS

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM.

Submitted by Trevor Hall, WA6JAU, Director

MDARC Election Notes

Officer election is once again upon us. We will be voting on all offices for the 2008 club year in the November meeting. Each member has been sent an official ballot by mail, which you should fill out and return by mail, or bring directly to the November meeting.

Please support the club by casting your vote. Then support those who are elected. MDARC is a club with fabulous resources and great potential—let's use what we have to better amateur radio in the Bay Area!

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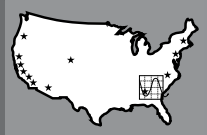

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Thursday 8:00 pm
General ATV Net

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Thursday, 7:00 pm

Central County	145.680 Simplex Jim Brunk, N6BHX
East County	146.535 Simplex Drew Hanson, KD6GLY
South County	146.355/+ (100 PL) Ed Ritchie, K6SFD
West County	145.110/- Steve Adams, KF6WNH

November Events

November 16	7:30 pm	**MDARC Monthly Meeting** *Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Lafayette*
November 29		**December Carrier Deadline**
December 3	7:00 pm	**MDARC Board Meeting** *Fuddrucker's, 1940 N. Main St., Walnut Creek*

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Next Meeting—November 16: Hams Helping CERT